

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE TORRANCE TRAFFIC COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Traffic Commission convened in a regular meeting at 7:02 p.m. on Monday, August 1, 2011 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Galvin.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Galvin, Green, Sargent,
Tsao, Walter, and Chairperson Rudolph.

Absent: Commissioner Siani (excused).

Also Present: Engineering Manager Semaan,
Planning Associate Crump,
Assistant to City Manager Fulton, and
Torrance Police Lieutenant D'Anjou.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Galvin moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Sargent seconded the motion and a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5 APPROVAL OF MINUTES: JUNE 6, 2011

Commissioner Sargent requested that Item 8e, page 3, be reworded as follows:

Commissioner Sargent asked staff to provide a schedule for all six Work Plan goals consistent with the time frame given to the Traffic Commission by City Council.

MOTION: Commissioner Galvin moved for the approval of the June 6, 2011 Traffic Commission meeting minutes as amended. Commissioner Green seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Siani).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

None.

7. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION

Chairperson Rudolph explained the policies and procedures of the Traffic Commission, including the right to appeal decisions to City Council.

7a. COMMENTS ON DRAFT SOUTH BAY BICYCLE MASTER PLAN

Engineering Manager Semaan introduced the item and distributed supplemental correspondence and Commissioners' comments received after agenda packets were prepared.

Planning Associate Crump expressed appreciation to Commissioners, Lieutenant D'Anjou, and Assistant to City Manager Fulton for providing comments on the draft South Bay Bicycle Master Plan that became available on-line June 13, 2011 for public review. She requested that Commissioners provide any additional feedback to the most recent draft Master Plan before it is forwarded to City Council's Transportation sub-committee on August 9, 2011 for consideration.

Marissa Christiansen, South Bay Initiative Director, Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition, provided a power point presentation on the South Bay Bicycle Master Plan in the material of record. She presented information on grant partners, the grant goal, and the Master Plan goal to provide a framework and present strategies and tools for an expanded and improved bike network that seven South Bay cities can move forward with. She discussed benefits of a bike plan that include eligibility for grant funding that the City is not currently receiving, decreased bicycle collisions, increased bike ridership, and improved road safety. She noted that implementing and maintaining bike facilities is cost effective compared to vehicular transportation infrastructure.

She reviewed the timeline, noting that the draft Master Plan has been revised three times based on public and staff comments. She stated that the public comment period closed July 13, 2011 and that the seven City Councils would be considering adoption this fall. She presented a chart showing existing and proposed bike mileage in each of the cities, noting that the Master Plan proposes increasing the current 29.7 miles in Torrance to approximately 65 miles. She provided photographs of existing dangerous bicycling behaviors in the City and noted that these behaviors start to dissipate when bicycle plans are adopted and implemented.

Ms. Christiansen presented maps of the current and proposed bike network that focuses on closing existing gaps and providing interconnectivity. She noted that proposed bike facilities on Hawthorne Boulevard, Crenshaw Boulevard, and Del Amo Boulevard were removed based on staff's recommendation. She briefly reviewed the three main Goals and their Objectives and concluded her presentation with photographs and renderings of what has been done in neighboring cities and what is possible.

Responding to Commissioner Galvin's inquiry, Engineering Manager Semaan advised that Torrance Municipal Code allows cyclists and pedestrians to share wide sidewalks but noted that there are safety concerns and it would not be possible to make them Class 1 bike paths. He added that it is physically viable to cut curbs and widen streets to create bike lanes and explained under what conditions this could be accomplished that would be more cost effective.

Commissioner Sargent stated that he was pleased with the interconnectivity in the latest proposed bike network and received clarification from Ms. Christiansen that the directive language in the policies has been softened.

In response to Chairperson Rudolph's inquiry, she explained that the revised policies allow each city to move forward with implementation in a way that makes sense

to them, pointing out that there would need to be a public hearing before implementing any bike facilities.

Chairperson Rudolph's inquired about cost analysis and Ms. Christiansen responded that cost estimates are \$12 million over a 20-year implementation plan. She explained that cities prefer this long timeline, mainly to allow them time to apply for grant funding.

Engineering Manager Semaan noted that implementation of the Master Plan would be a complementary improvement to the capital budget that includes many roadway improvement projects.

When Chairperson Rudolph expressed concern about language that requires Municipal Code amendments, Ms. Christiansen stated that words such as "consider" and "as feasible and appropriate" have been included to make the policies workable in Torrance but also acceptable to all the cities involved.

At 7:55 p.m., Chairperson Rudolph welcomed comments from audience members.

Joe Galliani, Calle Miramar, board member of the South Bay Bicycle Coalition, voiced support for the Master Plan to encourage increased bike ridership as well as to decrease obesity, air pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions. He stated that sharing roads with bicyclists is the law and that the education outreach component in the Master Plan would help motorists and bicyclists learn the laws. He encouraged Commissioners to recommend adoption of the Master Plan with enthusiasm.

Julian Katz, Hermosa Beach, board member of the South Bay Bicycle Coalition, expressed his support for the Master Plan. He reminded Commissioners about grant opportunities and noted that cities have complete authority over what they implement.

Don Clouch, West 238th Street, expressed concern that taxpayers would be paying for enhancements for a limited number of people and suggested that bicyclists pay for them through license or registration fees.

Dan Hyland, Lee Street, board member of the South Bay Bicycle Coalition, stated that the Master Plan is a win-win for the City and stressed the importance of educating youth to make bike riding safer for everyone.

Lieutenant D'Anjou addressed Commissioner Tsao's concerns about safety provisions in the Master Plan. He explained that the data that was used is outdated, inherently incorrect, and does not accurately report everything that would necessitate what is safe and unsafe. He stated that it is hard to say if safety would be improved with implementation of the Master Plan without documenting much more information. He noted that the Police Department has given all comments pertaining to law enforcement to staff.

Planning Associate Crump pointed out the education component of the Master Plan that would help both bicyclists and motorists learn the rules of the road.

Ms. Christiansen noted that cities that have bike plans see huge reductions in their bicycle collisions and fatalities. She added that more bicyclists on the road create more awareness and safer, more predictable cycling behavior.

In response to Chairperson Rudolph's inquiries, she stated that the Master Plan recommends designating a staff member to oversee implementation but that there may be a regional coordination effort through the South Bay Cities COG. She advised that bicycle plans are primarily implemented through grant funding but that it is up to each individual city to apply for these grants.

Responding to Commissioner Walter's inquiry, Ms. Christiansen discussed possible educational outreach that might include school curriculum, bike rodeos, and public service announcements.

Engineering Manager Semaan advised that the Commission could either review the final Master Plan at its October meeting before it is forwarded to City Council or it could hold a special meeting in September as the Commission normally goes dark in September. Following a brief discussion, it was decided to adjourn the meeting to September 6, 2011.

The Commission was in recess from 8:35 to 8:42 p.m.

7b. REVIEW OF STOP SIGNS INSTALLED DURING PAST 12-MONTHS

Engineering Manager Semaan distributed supplemental correspondence and recommended that the Commission review the staff report and concur with staff's determination to maintain recently installed stop signs at the intersections of Cabrillo Avenue and Lincoln Avenue and at Border Avenue and Portola Avenue. He provided background regarding City Council's direction at its June 21, 2011 meeting and the notification procedure that was conducted. He advised that these two intersections are the only intersections at which stop signs have been installed within the past 12 months that did not come to the Traffic Commission.

Commissioner Sargent stated that he visited these intersections and that he is in agreement with stop signs installed at Cabrillo Avenue and Lincoln Avenue; however, he did not understand the necessity of having three stop signs at the intersection of Border Avenue and Portola Avenue.

Engineering Manager Semaan explained that southbound Border Avenue was confusing to drivers and the stop signs provide positive right-of-way.

Commissioner Walter recalled when Border Avenue went through to Van Ness Avenue and why a median was installed.

In response to Commissioner Tsao's inquiry, Engineering Manager Semaan stated that the City's Traffic Engineer has the authority to make the determination and to review the installation of stop signs. He explained how complaints and concerns are addressed, the review and notification process, and when the Traffic Commission becomes involved.

Assistant to City Manager Fulton explained how it came about that the Mayor requested staff to notify residents and provide an opportunity for input by the Commission for a number of stop signs that have been installed that did not have a hearing prior to their installations.

MOTION: Commissioner Walter moved to concur with staff's determination to maintain recently installed stop signs at the intersections of Cabrillo Avenue and Lincoln Avenue and at Border Avenue and Portola Avenue. Commissioner Sargent seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Siani).

7c. TRAFFIC COMMISSION WORK PLAN – FIRST PRIORITY:
Develop a Tracking Process for Traffic Commission Concerns

Engineering Manager Semaan requested that the Commission review, provide comments, and give final approval to the tracking method spreadsheet in Attachment A. He noted that the attachment contains the Traffic Commission and resident concerns brought up under Oral Communications dating back to February 2009.

Referring to the June 6, 2011 meeting minutes, Commissioner Sargent offered his observation that his inquiry about the intersection of Plaza del Amo and Madrona Avenue was not included in the tracking log. He requested that staff include a plan of action and expected resolution date on future logs.

Engineering Manager Semaan related his understanding that the Comments column is not necessarily a plan of action but provides the status of the request.

Commissioner Sargent expressed frustration that the Comments section was blank for the October 4, 2010 request by Chairperson Rudolph that a Traffic Engineer come to a future meeting to explain Caltrans synchronization of traffic signals.

Engineering Manager Semaan responded that he did not want to include information that he could not recall. He noted that Caltrans has synchronized signals along Hawthorne Boulevard and Pacific Coast Highway but that he did not have an update on Western Avenue. He stated that this Work Plan goal is new, that meeting minutes are not verbatim, and that the attachment was provided to show Commissioners the format being proposed.

Commissioner Sargent stated that it is apparent how much the tracking process is needed and reminded staff of his request that closed items be transferred onto a separate page in the log.

Chairperson Rudolph suggested reviewing the tracking log quarterly rather than monthly and raised the possibility of posting the tracking log on-line in real time.

Commissioners Green and Walter indicated that they did not think that the log needed to be posted on-line because the information is readily available.

MOTION: Commissioner Galvin moved that the Traffic Commission approve the tracking process for Traffic Commission concerns as presented and to review it quarterly. Commissioner Green seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Siani).

**7d. TRAFFIC COMMISSION WORK PLAN – SECOND PRIORITY:
Develop a Guideline for Protective Permissive Left-Turn Signals**

Commissioner Galvin suggested continuing this item to the September 6, 2011 Commission meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Galvin moved to continue Item 7d to the September 6, 2011 Commission meeting. Commissioner Walter seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Siani).

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

8a. Engineering Manager Semaan stated that he transferred to the Public Works Department three weeks ago and informed Commissioners that Project Manager Sedadi would be on medical leave for six months.

8b. Commissioner Walter distributed an article about motorcycle safety.

8c. Commissioner Sargent requested that staff provide a schedule for all six Work Plan goals consistent with the time frame given to the Traffic Commission by City Council.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 9:28 p.m., Commissioner Galvin moved to adjourn the meeting to September 6, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room, Torrance City Hall, and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Rudolph so ordered.

Approved as Amended September 6, 2011 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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